

# Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Project Profile GEORGIA

**Updated: March 21, 2001**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program

<b>Focus Areas Funded</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveillance and Epidemiology – Core Activities</li> <li>• Health Alert Network</li> </ul>
<b>Georgia has strengthened its capacity to respond to threats of bioterrorism by:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piloting the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SENDSS) in selected health districts;</li> <li>• Developing a Strategic Training Plan which focuses on the public health community, hospital and medical provider communities, and the infection control professional community;</li> <li>• Expanding the notifiable disease list to include anthrax, botulism, brucellosis, plague, Q fever, and tularemia;</li> <li>• Developing a BT informational/interactive webpage for the department's website;</li> <li>• Integrating Influenza Surveillance/Pandemic Preparedness into bioterrorism preparedness activities;</li> <li>• Conducting drills and field exercises regarding preparedness;</li> <li>• Establishing fax broadcast capabilities;</li> <li>• Establishing partnerships with the Medical Association of Georgia, the Georgia Hospital Association, the Dekalb County Board of Health CDC Exemplar Project, the Georgia Poison Control Center, and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency;</li> <li>• Completing the Public Health Frame Relay System which provides internet connectivity to all district offices and 98 of 159 county offices; and,</li> <li>• Establishing an Office of Emergency Operations within the Department's Office of the Director.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Year 2 Plans (August 31, 2000-August 30, 2001) include:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a comprehensive plan for the management of surveillance and epidemiologic activities related to bioterrorist events.</li> <li>• Improving reporting systems to reflect concerns for bioterrorism.</li> <li>• Develop training courses and materials for State, district, and local public health personnel.</li> <li>• Enhancing collaboration between public health and disease reporting partners.</li> </ul>

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- Exploring alternative surveillance systems that may be capable of rapid, syndromic surveillance.
- Completing design and development of initial technical and end-user training on the maintenance and use of Health Alert Network technology.
- Completing training-needs survey.
- Completing the design of Bioterrorism Surveillance training, specialized investigation training, and using Health Alert Network technology courses.
- Updating and expanding the Emergency Databases for the present 3 counties and expanding the database to 13 counties in Georgia's West Central Health District and three bordering counties in Alabama.
- Conducting training in domestic preparedness and emergency plan implementation at the county level.
- Continuing implementation of SENDSS in the public and private sectors.
- Conducting field and tabletop exercises to improve response capacity.
- Conducting event simulations to ensure functionality of rapid communication systems.
- Developing algorithms for event investigation; and,
- Developing a plan for ensuring that all counties have internet connectivity.

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<b>Key Emergency Contacts</b>	<table><tr><td>Federal Emergency Management Agency:</td><td>(770) 220-5200</td></tr><tr><td>State Emergency Management Agency:</td><td>(404) 624-7000</td></tr><tr><td>Federal Bureau of Investigation:</td><td>(404) 679-9000</td></tr><tr><td>State Public Health Agency:</td><td>(404) 657-2700</td></tr></table>	Federal Emergency Management Agency:	(770) 220-5200	State Emergency Management Agency:	(404) 624-7000	Federal Bureau of Investigation:	(404) 679-9000	State Public Health Agency:	(404) 657-2700
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